COLLEGE NEWS

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERS

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Out of a need, ever urgent and pressing, for an engineering association, truly democratic and mutually beneficial, was born, on June 14, 1915, the present American Association of Engineers. From the moment of its birth, its growth has been phenomenal, until at present there are some ten thousand progressive engineers enrolled in its membership, and with its growth it has acquired a voice which, when raised in behalf of the profession, will be heard from the east to the west.

Perhaps the best statement of the objects and aims of this organization is to be found in Article II of the constitution. This article provides that:

"The objects of the Association shall be to raise the standard of ethics of the engineering profession and to promote the economic and social welfare of engineers, especially by:

"Affording means for the interchange of information beneficial to member of the engineering profession, maintaining a service clearing house for the benefit of members, influencing proposed legislation affecting the engineering profession and taking action necessary or advisable to safeguard the profession's welfare, promulgating the Asociation's ideas through proper publicity, and fostering a brotherly spirit among engineers."

In proof that this article is not merely an idealistic statement of object, the Association has undertaken and successfully carried out definite activities, bearing upon the above mentioned aims.

Indisputably, the question of compensation is the most vital consideration to the majority of engineers. The American Association has taken up this question, fearlessly and effectively.

The first branch of engineers to receive specific attention from the Association, was the railroad engineer. Following the adoption of a schedule of salaries at a national convention of railroad engineers at Chicago, March 17, 1919, which was subsequently presented to the Board of Wages and Working Conditions of the Railroad Administration, the A. A. E. took the wheel and piloted the question with such an effective hand that today wages have been increased in the Northwest Region, the Central-Western Region and the Allegheny Region.

Through its Washington secretary, the A. A. E. has

obtained the signature of Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt, authorizing new rates of pay for the technical forces of the navy.

The compensation problems of other branches of engineering will be taken up in as rapid an order as organization and preparation make conditions favorable. A report making recommendations and including schedules of wages for several different branches was presented to the 1919 Annual Convention. The successful adoption of these schedules depends upon the support given the Assiciation by the public service and upon the co-operation given it by engineers.

Several of the local chapters are now engaged in securing better pay for local engineers in the employ of the city or state. The national organization stands back of this work and co-operates with the local activities with definite recommendations.

Through its Service Clearing House, the Association has rendered assistance of which it may well be proud. The Assistant Secretary is in charge of this department and it has already filled several thousand positions with its members, thus saving many thousands of dollars which would have otherwise gone to commercial employment agencies. Mr. C. E. Drayer, National Secretary, in a discussion before a meeting of the Ohio Association of Technical Engineers and Architects, held in October at Columbus, Ohio, said:

"We are placing thirty or forty men in positions each week. Of the five hundred to six hundred men that are listetd in our employment bureau, about ten per cent are out of work. The other ninety per cent want better positions, and obtaining better positions is one of the things we aim to do for them. We have more jobs from $125 to $200 a month than we can fill. . . . I might say I got just a little shock when a party came to us the other day and asked me to find a fifteen thousand dollar man."

The Association publishes a directory in which each member is listed in such a manner as to show plainly the work he is qualified to do. This Annual Directory will come to be of increasing value to employer and employee.

Perhaps the engineers' code of ethics is the least well defined and least observed of all the professional codes. Because the engineers' code of ethics is, like the guiding motives of life, true, it is quite possible that there is more need of a teacher to explain and interpret this code, than there is need of a policeman to enforce it. The Practice Committee, created by the Association, provides both the explanation and enforcement of the code. Cases involving questions of ethics will be carefully investigated by this committee and submitted to the Executive Board for approval. This Practice Committee will also function as an arbiter in cases of abuse or unfair treatment of its members, either by employer or client.

The Association believes and fosters the idea that the engineer should take a part in politics, not so much as a right, but rather as a prime duty of citizenship. So many public questions, such as transportation, drainage, water supply, sewerage, and garbage disposal, are so fundamentally engineering problems, that it is absurd to think of the engineer as not taking an active interest in them. "Engineers for Engineering" is one of the Association's slogans. The Association hopes to make it as imposible to appoint a lawyer as Director of Public Works, as it would be to appoint a doctor as Attorney General.

The Association aims to supervise legislation affecting engineers and to take all other necessary steps to guards their welfare. While licensing was active in many states, and laws were passed in several, it was the A. A. E. which formed the chief backing.

The American Association of Engineers is a union in the same manner as any other professional organization is such. It is a union of the same type as the United States Chamber of Commerce, the American Medical Society, or the Bar. The A. A. E. has been referred to as the Engineer's Chamber of Commerce. It is not a union after the order of a labor union. The engineer belongs to neither capital or labor, but must co-operate with both and must be loyal to both. The Association hopes to achieve its ends by the application of intelligence, co-operation and publicity.

Engineering publicity is one of the methods of advancement, which has, in the past, been sadly neglected. Perhaps publicity, both direct and indirect, will do more to raise the standard of the profession in the eyes of the world, than any other one method. It is all too seldom that the work of the engineer is given public prominence in our papers or periodicals. There is more space in our newspapers given to the saving of one life by an eminent surgeon than there is to the prevention of the loss of many by the application of some engineer's design to water purification, or to grade crossing elimination. Perhaps "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," but the pound of cure has much more weight in the public press, than have many ounces of engineering prevention. By bringing before the public by the media of the press, the stage and the platform, the important and vital part which the engineer plays in the scheme of things, the A. A. E. will have taken a big step towards elevating the profession to the dignity which it deserves.

It is deplorable, but nevertheless a fact, that many of our engineers have the reputation of being narrow minded. It is more deplorable to realize that, to a certain extent, this reputation has been well earned. It is hard to conceive of a profession in which man is brought into contact with more phases of life, or in which he has a broader outlook upon life, than he has

in the engineering profession. But the stigma of "narrowness" remains upon many of our engineers. If the A. A. E., by its promulgation of brotherly spirit, can broaden the outlook of some of our engineers, if it can, by inciting them to play a part in public affairs, erase the stigma of "narrowness", its service will have been inestimable. At present, there are too many engineers, who look at a great bridge, seeing in detail its truss form, its girders, its riveting, but failing altoether to notice or enjoy the song of a robin, perched high on the top chord.

The American Association of Engineers is delightfully different from the existing professional engineering societies, in that it is democratic and all-embracing. The Association recognizes, and helps the little fellows, the beginners, those who occupy the crowded lower rungs of the ladder, and those are the ones who need help.

Especially attractive to students is the Student Membership. A Student Member shall be a student at any recognized technical engineering college or school at the time of his application for membership. Student members pay $3.00 per year, and are exempt from entrance or transfer fees at all times.

Because you are democratic, because you have high ideals, and because you are helpful, we give you our whole-hearted support, and trust you will "Advance —Co-operate—A. A. E."

ARCHITECTS

The last meeting of the Architectural Club was well attended. After a short business session, Professor French gave a very interesting and instructive talk on "Reproductions," in which he explained the various methods of reproducing drawings, paintings and photographs by means of engravings, etchings and halftones. Following this the faculty held an open criticism of design problems. A similar public criticism was given Friday, December 5th, under the auspices of the Architectural Club.

A new system of grading by points had been adopted in the design courses this year, having been copied, with modifications from similar systems at Columbia University, and the University of Pennsylvania. Points per week are given according to the grade received on the problems. Students receiving a grade of "P" on each problem will acquire the necessary number of points in a semester, while the more proficient students are promoted to the next course as soon as they have received the sufficient number of points. This tends to equalize competition and students may be advanced according to their ability. This system has proven satisfactory to the students and the faculty.

One of the most interesting of recent problems was that of a Salvation Army building for Columbus, assigned to the seniors in design, as a seven weeks' problem. Because of the increased business, local architects were not able to furnish the design and plans for the building, which were the contribution of the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects, in the recent Salvation Army campaign, and the work was taken over by the Department of Architecture. A combination of the four best solutions by students with modifications required by the officials of the Salvation Army, has been accepted by the headquarters at Pittsburgh, who are so well pleased with the building that the Columbus building will serve as a standard for all such buildings in this part of the country. The recent purchase of a property adjoining the site of the new building on West Broad street, has necessitated a change in the design of the front elevation, which is now the subject of a three-weeks' problem.

Professor Howard D. Smith has made a very attractive model of his design for the proposed memorial campanile or chimes tower to be erected over the spring. A committee of the Alumni Association is back of this project and this committee is conducting a campaign among alumni. In this campaign they are making use of a model and a very realistic picture of the same.

The entire force of the University Architects Office is busy on studies for the proposed new stadium and athletic field. Professors Bradford and Smith recently went to Chicago to see the competition drawings for a stadium to be built there.

MECHANICALS

The meetings of the A. S. M. E. were temporarily suspended during the period when heat and light were restricted as to use. The December meeting was held on December 15th, at which Howard S. Orth gave a talk on the Manufacture of Carbon Motor Brushes and Other Carbon Products.

The Mechanicals have a bright outlook in the Intercollegiate Basketball League, having some very good material, both in new men and in several of the men who were on the team last year. They have won their first game by a score of 14 to 0. New jerseys have been purchased for the team by the A. S. M. E.

Several illustrated lectures are promised by the A. S. M. E. during the present semester.

CERAMICS

The student branch of the American Ceramic Society met in regular meeting on Tuesday evening, November 18th. After the regular business meeting, Dr. J. R. Withrow delivered a very interesting talk

on "The Requirements of Chemical Stoneware, From a Chemist's Standpoint."

Meetings were not held during the period when light and heat were unavailable in the evenings.

ELECTRICALS

For a number of years it has been customary for the student branch of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, to hold an electrical show at the University. This plan was inaugurated in 1911 and since then two more shows have been given, one in 1914 and one in 1916.

This year it was decided to have an electrical show at the Memorial Hall, in order that more people could attend. The A. I. E. E. student branch is co-operating with the Columbus Electrical Contractors' and Dealers' Association in putting on the show, especially in the educational and "stunt" features. Weekly meetings are now being held in preparation of the plans. Professor C. A. Wright, J. Howe Roebuck, and R. H. Frankenberg are representing the A. I. E. E. student branch.

The show will be held April 5 to 10 at the Memorial Hall, and will be known as the "Columbus Electrical Show."

Elaborate decorations and electrical effects will be included in the show. The Poiret Garden, the fashionable playground of Paris, will probably be reproduced in the main hall.

A poster contest will be conducted and a prize of $25.00 will be given for the winning poster, which will be used to advertise the show. All the members of the institute branch will be given an opportunity to help in the educational and "stunt" features.

CIVILS

The Civil Engineers' dance which was held shortly before the Christmas vacation, was a decided success from every point of view. It was well attended by the "Civils" and their friends. Punch was served for refreshment. Another dance is thought of for some time in the early spring.

Meetings of this student organization, were also not held during the period of coal shortage, but many interesting meetings are in view for the coming semester.

Professor C. T. Morris of the department was scheduled to speak on February 7th at Detroit on the subject of "Stress Measurement."

Professor F. H. Eno spoke at the Southern Hotel recently in behalf of city planning commissions, recommending such a body for the city of Columbus.

A new course in "Engineering English" is being taught to Senior Civils who elect it. This is a two-hour course, and will surely prove valuable. The course is given by Miss Harbarger.